

A
L E T T E R
T O

JOHN HANBURY, Esq;

MEMBER of PARLIAMENT

For the County of MONMOUTH.

By RICHARD EDWARDS, Clerk,

Vicar of MAMBLE, in the County of *Worcester*;

And Curate of PONT-Y-POOL.

*Forgiveness to the Injured does belong,
For they ne'er pardon, who have done the Wrong.*

Humbly inscribed to the Honourable
And Right Rev. SHUTE BARRINGTON,
Lord Bishop of LANDAFF.

B R I S T O L:

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LETTER

TO

JOHN HANBURY ESQ

At the County of Middlesex

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My LORD,

TO whom should an oppressed and highly injured Clergyman, look up to for Redress, in such a Case as mine, but to the Bishop of his Diocese? or to whom else should he first make known his Grievances?---Stranger as I was, and still am to your Lordship, I did so; and your Lordship was pleased to express your Concern, for the Situation I was *then* represented to be in: That Condition has since been rendered worse; and further Oppressions still follow me.

The Man who was ordain'd lately by your Lordship, and Inducted a few Days since, to the only Curacy I have left, has announced my Dismission from that also! and even solicited a neighbouring Clergyman to serve it! I cannot believe therefore,

that your Lordship, knowing my real Case, would have been so indifferent to my Fate, if you had not been impos'd upon by Misrepresentation, in the same Manner Mr. HANBURY has, nay, perhaps by the same People.

Conscious therefore of my Innocence, and urged by my Necessities, and Feelings, and the unmerited Injuries I have sustain'd in Purse and Reputation ; I boldly assert my Innocence, and humbly call upon your Lordship for Protection.

Mr. DAVIS, of LANELEN, whom the new Vicar of LANOVER, courted to accept of my Bread, generously renounc'd it on such base Terms. This, my Lord, is one Proof of the Light in which I, and my Enemies stand, in the Neighbourhood, wherein we all are *well known*. And the following Letter address'd to Mr. HANBURY, will, I hope, convince

vince your Lordship, that I have been guilty of no real Crime, but have behav'd as an honest Man ought to behave, in Return for Favours receiv'd, from a generous and worthy Benefactor.

Your Lordship's Humanity is too well known, to let me be dismiss'd thus from my Curacies, if my Conduct had not been misrepresented. And therefore I am the more inclin'd to hope and believe, you will not only excuse my inscribing this Letter to your Lordship; but that you will endeavour to be TRULY inform'd, and give me your Support, if my Condition claims your Pity; or justly despise and neglect me, if I have endeavoured to impose upon you, and upon the Public, by a false State of my Case.

We call upon God's Name, when we would enforce the Truth of what we wish to confirm. I call upon the Name of God, in
Support

Support of the Truths in this Letter. And I call upon your Lordship, in God's Name, to save me from Ruin if I am injured; and to expose me to Infamy, if I am injuring others, by asserting Falsehoods.

My Case, my Lord, is desperate, for if I fail of your Protection, or the Compassion of the Public, I must die in a Goal! And you cannot without Violence to your Nature, permit a Clergyman in your own Diocese, to suffer in the Manner I do, for following that holy Precept of Jesus Christ's, DOING AS WE WOULD BE DONE UNTO.

In Confidence therefore, that my own Innocence, and your Lordship's known Goodness, will not permit such Evils to befall me, I humbly submit my Cause, and my Fate, to your Lordship's serious Consideration.

I am my Lord,

*Your Dutiful devoted and most obedient
humble Servant,*

PONT-Y-POOL,
March 2, 1772.

RICHARD EDWARDS.

A LETTER, &c.

S I R,

THOUGH it is the Duty of a Christian to forget and to forgive Injuries, and more particularly mine, by my Profession, to set such an Example ; yet, I believe there are particular Cases, and that mine is one of them, which will justify an injured and oppressed Clergyman, who is distressed in his Circumstances ; who has been deprived of his Bread, and persecuted in his Person and Family, if he lays his Grievances before the Publick, and addresses them to the particular Person, who has brought so much Woe unto him, and Distress into his Family.

To you therefore Sir, I address this Letter, but it is to the Candour and Justice of the Public, I submit the Merits of it.

At present it is generally understood, that the Cause of your Displeasure, and the Consequences which have flow'd from it, are, First, for having
given

given my own Vote for Mr. MORRIS, at the late contested Election for this County; Secondly, for having endeavoured to prevail on your own Tenants to do so too; and Lastly, that I even avail'd myself of your Indulgence, and took one of your Horses from your Stable, and rode him about the Country, canvassing in Opposition to your Interest. These Sir are the Charges exhibited against me, and the Reasons assign'd, why, you and those who *call themselves your Friends*, have oppressed, and still continue to oppress me.

Now Sir, you know, that Mr. MORRIS procured me, some Years since, the little Preferment I have in the Church, and that he has been ready upon all other Occasions to serve me, and this he did, I firmly believe, long before he had any Thoughts of representing this County in Parliament.

I therefore will not believe, that *even you* can censure me, for embracing that only Occasion, which perhaps my Life may afford me, in making so small a Return.

Ingratitude is a Crime of the deepest Dye; and
I thank

I thank God, neither the Fear of your Resentment, nor the Injuries which I foresaw would befall me, for voting for my Patron and Friend, deterr'd me from doing my Duty.

To this first Crime, I plead *guilty*; I confess it; I am so, in the fullest Extent of the Charge.

The Second Charge I absolutely deny, and call upon you to produce one Tenant of yours, who will say upon his Oath, that I solicited his Vote in Favor of Mr. MORRIS. On the contrary, I never spoke but to one of them upon the Subject, and that too, before you came down into *Monmouthshire*, from *London*; before any of your Friends had heard whose Interest you intended to support, and as it is generally believ'd, before you *yourself* knew, whose Interest you would support. And yet, I ask'd that Man to vote for Mr. MORRIS, provided it was not contrary to the Interest, which Mr. HANBURY might declare for! This Man, whose Person I did not know, was pointed out to me, as a Freeholder, when I accidentally met him at the Turnpike near *Caerleon*,
B
and

and what I said to him, was, in the Hearing of the Toll-Man and others.

To this Charge therefore I plead *not guilty*, and I defy you to produce one honest Man to contradict it.

The Third and last Charge, is equally an unjust one, I deny that ever I took your Horse for the Purpose of canvassing, or for any other Purpose than that, which you permitted me to employ him in.

Now Sir you must remember, when you sent for me to your House, that I told you, I would give you my Vote at the next Election, provided Mr. MORRIS did not stand in Opposition to you, because he had procur'd me a Living, after I had been *promised* the same Favor, for twenty Years together by your Father ! To him therefore I ow'd Nothing, not even *Attendance and Dependence*. To you indeed, I have been really oblig'd, I have had from you Five Pounds a Year to teach Ten of your Workmen's Children to read, write, &c. And I have been permitted to take a Horse from your
Stable

Stable on Sundays, to carry me to the several Churches I *then* did the Duty of, for some of my Brethren.

Those who will consider the Fatigue of teaching Children to read and write, will readily allow, that Five Pounds a Year is little enough for such Attendance and Duty, and that no Man, but *he* to whom Five Pounds a Year is of Importance, would undergo such Drudgery for it. And those who know the Manner in which a *Welch Parson* is received and looked upon by some of the Esqrs. of their Parishes, will not think their Situation a very agreeable one.

Yet I confess Sir, under all those awkward Circumstances, I thought myself obliged to you; and was ready in Return for your Kindnesses to me, to shew a great Deal of Gratitude; but not such, which would arise to an Act of Sin, by deserting the Interest of my principal and only important Benefactor.

It has been remark'd, and it ought to be remark'd; that the Five Pounds a Year taken from

my Pocket, has return'd into your *own* ! not into the Pocket of some other poor Neighbour, tho' you have many that are capable, and willing to do the same Business. And thus the *Sins* of the Master have fell upon the Children, *he taught for hire* !

But Sir, it is no uncommon Thing for Men of Fortune, and consequently of Power, to conceive a Prejudice and Dislike to their inferior Neighbours ; to oppress them, to persecute them, and even deprive them of their Bread ; and assign false Reasons, for becoming so highly exasperated against them ; He will censure them for their publick Conduct, which he does not in his Heart disapprove ; and persecute them under that Pretence, while the REAL Cause lies conceal'd. Private Tales whispered into their Ears, by contemptible Flatterers, Toad-Eaters and Sycophants, who surround them, are often productive of such Mischiefs.

And I am afraid Sir, this is your unhappy Situation, and the Cause of mine. It was one of these Wretches, who told you, I had taken a Horse from your Stable, to canvass about the Country in Favor of Mr. MORRIS. And yet when you was convinc'd

convinc'd of the Injury done me, by such a Report being spread about the County; you deny'd me the common Justice, of giving up your *infamous Informer*.

Now Sir, permit me to ask you, whether you remember coming to my House, accompanied by Mr. COOK and Mr. POWELL, after dark on *Saturday* the Twenty-First of *September* last, if you do not, those worthy Gentlemen I dare say do, (for they were *both* perfectly sober) I ask you Sir, whether you remember with what Severity and Anger you charg'd me, with having said, you had, upon some shooting Party, broke open a Chapel of Ease belonging to me, to avoid the Inclemency of the Weather, and that you had rioted and revelled therein, to the Disgrace of GOD, his Religion, and to all sober Christians.

I confess, Sir, that heavy and false Charge struck me Speechless for some Minutes. I did not doubt but that the Man, who was false enough to say it, might be wicked enough to swear it; And I really thought, my Ruin was then compleated. Observing my Silence and Astonishment, you ask'd
me,

me, why I did not speak? and hinted “that perhaps, I had been *a merry-making* that Day!” and then you *kindly* observ’d to me, “that you was sorry to see a Man of my Profession, on the Eve of the Sabbath, in such a Condition.”

I own Sir, I was in a sad Condition; I trembled, I look’d pale, and was under the utmost Agitation of Body and Mind; because, as I said above, I thought my Ruin was then compleated. But I deny that I was in *that Condition*, your Jaundiced Eye, and your cruel Tongue would have fixed me in.

I am sure Sir, it was the Passions of Fear, Astonishment, and Despair; and those Passions *only*, which affected me, for the Truth of which, I appeal to those worthy Gentlemen, your Friends, who accompanied you to my House; but who, I am persuaded, knew not your Errand, for coming there. And if the *Influence of strong Liquors* had any Weight in the severe and cruel Treatment, I met with from you that Night; I am sorry you have put it out of my Power, to make the *best Apology*, for the hardest and most unmanly Treatment.

a Cler-

a Clergyman could have met with, on the *Eve of the Sabbath*, in his own House, from the *Esqr.* of his Parish, and a Member of the British Parliament !

And now Sir, in my Turn, I must ask you, what Observation Mr. POWELL made to you, relative to the *Condition* in which you *left me*, and he *found you in*, the Minute after you went out of my House into the Street ? I will tell you Sir, for it was heard by a Person of Veracity, and it is of Importance to me, whatever it may be to you, to say it *here* ; that Mr. POWELL acquitted me, of being in *that Condition* you was *pleas'd to see me in*. And at the same Time, reminded you of *that*, in which *he then saw you*.

Now Sir, if I had really been Guilty of bringing such a Charge against you, as that of prophaning a Place dedicated to the Service of God ; would not the severe Chastisement you gave me that Evening, have been a sufficient Punishment ? And if on the other Hand, I was wholly innocent of the Charge, ought it not to have *softened the Rigour* of your *real Cause* of Resentment against me ?

But

But Sir, I deny the Charge, and every Part of it; I never said it; I never heard it; nor do I believe it: And I call upon you in public, as I have often done in private, to give up the Author of that wicked Tale. For tho' *I know, who* he is, and *what* he is, and tho' *you know* he is but one Remove from a Servant, and ten Times beneath the lowest of them in Meanness; yet Sir, you refused me that Piece of Justice, and proceeded against me, as if all the Tales he has told you were strictly true.

But so far should I have been from censuring you, had I been an Eye-Witness to your breaking open a Chapel, or a Church upon a bleak Mountain in *Wales*, to avoid the Inclemency of unforeseen bad Weather; that my Heart would have bely'd my Tongue and my Judgment, if I had said, or thought it, even a Crime; for I cannot suppose that a Place set apart to return God Thanks in, for the Blessings he bestowes on his Creatures, violated, by being us'd in Cases of Necessity, for the Protection of their Persons.

I remember I did tell you that Evening, that I
had

had heard, who the Gentlemen were, who broke open the Chapel; and I ~~am~~ ^{have} been since inform'd, they were Strangers in this Country, and Roman Catholicks; yet I am convinc'd their Necessity, not their Religion, induc'd them to do it.

Now Sir, I am also convinc'd, you are, and have been long since, satisfied, that I never directly, or indirectly laid this Charge against you; I am convinc'd of it, because every other Means of distressing me in Purse, and Person, has been employ'd; and I cannot think you would have favoured me in this Particular alone, if you could have brought the dark Accuser, into open Day-light, to swear in public to the Truth of those Whispers, he had poisoned your Ears with in private.

If then I am innocent of all the latter Charges, and only stand *guilty* of the first, namely, that of giving my Vote for my best Friend, and greatest Benefactor; surely I should not have been dismissed from a Curacy I held by the Favour of your Steward's Son; surely the taking away my School Salary, and sending me on Foot to do my Sunday's Duty, would have been Punishment enough for mine Offences. But neither the Dismission from

your School, your Stable, nor my Curacy to your Steward's Son, it seems, will atone for my past Offences.

A young Gentleman, your Friend too (whom about a Year and a Half ago, we saw treading the Stage among a Parcel of strolling Players) has been ordain'd, and is inducted into the Vicarage, of the only Curacy I now have to serve.

And this Man has been soliciting Mr. DAVIS, of LANELEN, a neighbouring Clergyman, to accept of the Curacy, that he may dismiss me from that likewise; but to his Honour I speak it, and to my Heart I feel his noble and generous Sentiments, he rejected it with Disdain on such base Terms.

I have call'd upon your Steward's Son to give me his Reasons for dismissing me from his Church; but I can obtain no Answer! The Truth is, he can give none; because he durst not tell the Truth, i. e. that you (his Father's Master) is offended with me.

I need not tell you, only as it is necessary to
others

others, to excite their Compassion, nay their Charity also, that an early Marriage, a large Family, and various unforeseen Accidents, and these recent Injuries, have brought me much behind Hand with the World, that now in the Evening of my Days, when my Wants are increased, all my Curacies, which are two Thirds of my Income, are going to be cruelly taken from me. And for what? For acting the Part, I hope, of an honest grateful Man, to a noble and generous Benefactor.

A Gentleman, whose Generosity and Fortune has made a large Tract of this County, smile for many Miles around his delightful Habitation; and who has made the Faces of the poor smile for many Miles more; and whose Goodness, and that too long before he thought of standing to represent this County in Parliament, procured me the only Bread, you and your unfeeling Associates, God be prais'd, cannot take from me.

If I have merited such severe Treatment, I call upon you to shew it; or that I ever departed from the Character I ought to sustain; shew that I ever was guilty of any immoral Conduct; or that I have
not

I was 20)

not liv'd while Curate ~~was~~ here, in the good
Wishes, and good Will of my Parishioners and
Neighbours; many of whom are *now* obliged to
withdraw their *open Countenance* from me, being de-
pendent on you, or what is a great deal worse, on
your's, lest Evils should fall as fast upon their Heads,
as they have upon mine.

Tho' I endeavour still to teach a School, many
of my Neighbours do not send their Children to
me, for Fear of your Displeasure. These and
many other Grievances, which are the Effects of
your Anger, are felt very sensibly by me, and will,
I doubt not, justify my calling upon you to forget,
and to forgive, what you ought not to have remem-
bered, or been offended at.

If I was actuated by Revenge, and not Necessity,
to make this Appeal to the Publick, as well as to
you, I could corroborate and enforce the severe
Treatment I have met with, by holding forth a
Picture of the Distresses of the Poor in general,
which furround your Habitation. But I shall only
observe that two Persons died the Winter before
last for Want of Food, and every Necessary of Life,
under

under your own Eyes, within the Atmosphere of your Kitchen, nay facing, and within a Call of your dining Parlour, one of whom in particular, deserved well of your Family. And that your Gardeners (by whose Orders you know best) cause great Quantities of Vegetables of every Kind, which are not consumed by your Family, or by *your Friends* (for you too have *your Friends*) to be thrown into the River; such as would support a Multitude of Poor; such as would have saved the Lives of the deceased Persons mentioned above, and such as the most opulent Tradesmen in the Town, would most thankfully accept, and eat at their Tables.

But *your Ministers*, like those often in higher Stations, cannot be content with revelling in Luxury at their own Houses, but they must have the ~~Best~~ *Zest* to look down in the mean Time, on a Herd of miserable Creatures, from whom too, but a few Years since, they themselves sprung, and exult over their wretched Condition.

Now Sir, if I have misrepresented your unmanly and cruel Conduct at my House; Mr. Cook and Mr. POWEL, who are Gentlemen of Truth, Candour

dour and Honour, who are your Friends, and who are almost Strangers to me, will undoubtedly empower you to contradict it.

If, as you say, I charg'd you with the Violation of God's House, in God's Name tell me your Author, and to whom I made that Charge.

If the two once miserable Wretches, who died within a Call of your Dining-Room Window, did not die for Want of Food and every Necessary of Life, all my Neighbours must condemn me for asserting such a Falshood, and justly despise me for it.

If what I have said about your Servants wantonly destroying the good Things of the Earth, which you are so abundantly overloaded with, be not true; your Gardener and a great Number of Servants, Labourers, Weeders, &c. can contradict it upon Oath.

But if all these stand their Ground, and if no Tenant of your's can be produc'd, who will assert upon Oath, that I did endeavour to withdraw him
from

from his *Vassalage* to you; And if no Servant of your's can make Oath, that ever I took a Horse out of your Stables to canvass for Mr. MORRIS, and I defy them to do it; then every Man of Honour, Sense, and Humanity will justify the making my Conduct, and yours thus public, and be at Liberty to form his own Judgment on the Matter, and whether I am, as I think myself,

Your highly injured, or what I have always

aim'd to be, your devoted,

humble Servant,

PONT-Y-POOL,
March 28, 1772.

RICHARD EDWARDS.

If this short Sketch of my wretched Condition, does not move the Hearts of the Publick in general, or of those opulent and numerous ancient Britons my Countrymen, who live in the Capital of this Kingdom, I must spend the Remainder of my Days in a Goal; not owing to my Faults, but to my Misfortunes.

I therefore hope and believe, that a Case so singular, and an Oppression so heavy, will excite
some

Some of my absent, as well as neighbouring Countrymen, to make an Enquiry into my Conduct and Character; and if I have Truth and Justice on my Side, that they will think of some Method to relieve my present Wants, and to enable me to withstand a Torrent of Oppressions of various Kinds, which I must otherwise sink under.

Nothing but these well founded Hopes could have induced me to publish (and in a Language too I am not thoroughly acquainted with) this Narrative of my wretched Situation.

Nor has it been done without the Advice of my Friends, or without a private Letter to the Gentleman to whom it is addressed, soliciting an Opportunity of confronting my Accusers, in Hopes, that after my own Innocence, and their Detractions were made clear, he would commiserate my Condition and restore me to that Bread, which I lost in Consequence of his *unjust* Displeasure. That Letter prov'd ineffectual! I trust in God, this will not—May God forgive him: I hope, and believe, I do.

I will not make any Apology to the Purchasers of this Letter, for the Price affix'd to it, because I
flatter

flatter myself, the humane Reader, would rather wish me to be a Gainer, than a Loser by it, which is more than I can reasonably expect, from a Narrative, interesting to an obscure Clergyman who is known only, to a little Circle of Men in the lower Station of Life, and persecuted by those in higher Power.

RICHARD EDWARDS.

P. S. Since the above Sheets have been sent to the Press, the young Vicar of *Lanover*, &c. has given me Notice to quit his Curacy *immediately*.

How unstable is the Condition of Man! Within the Course of a Year and a Half, we have seen this Man acting on the Stage with a Sett of itinerant Strollers, we have seen him dismiss'd the Table and House of the Man he *now* calls his Friend, and punishes me to oblige, we have seen him ordain'd in Deacon's and Priest's Orders, and inducted to a Vicarage! we have known him to have receiv'd what I now ask (Charity), and I have heard him say to me, or what is the same Thing as saying it: *Go Starve*, for you gave your Vote against JOHN HANBURY Esquire.

F I N I S.

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 higher Power.

RICHARD EDWARDS.

P. S. Since the above Sheets have been sent to
 the Press, the young Vicar of Llanfair, has
 given me Notice to quit his Curacy immediately.

How miserable is the Condition of Man! Within the
 Course of a Year and a Half, we have seen this Man
 acting on the Stage with a Set of innocent Strollers,
 we have seen him dilapidate the Table and House of
 the Man he now calls his Friend, and punishes me
 to oblige, we have seen him ordained in a season and
 Priest's Orders, and induced to a Vicarage! we have
 known him to have received what I now call (Chri-
 stianity), and I have heard him say to me, or what is the
 same Thing as saying it: Go Stars, for you gave
 your Vote against John Haverbury Edgemoor.

F I M I S